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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

II. Measures taken at the national and international levels regarding the prevention and suppression of international terrorism and information on incidents caused by international terrorism

A. Information received from Member States

1. **Cuba** stated that it supported the efforts of the United Nations to combat terrorism, and that it advocated the holding of an international conference on terrorism in order to define terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Cuba also stated that even though the practical value of legal instruments prohibiting international terrorism was considerably diminished because some States parties to those instruments allowed terrorists to operate from their territory, it had nevertheless acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

2. Cuba reported that for nearly four decades it has been a victim of terrorism, the most recent acts occurring on 4 September 1997, in which there were explosions in a number of hotels in Havana resulting in the death of an Italian citizen and the wounding of three Cuban citizens, as well as material damage.

3. Cuba also reported that its current national legislation contained provisions that punish acts of terrorism. Act No. 62 of the Penal Code of Cuba provides a definition of terrorism and certain acts related to terrorism.

4. Cuba pointed out that a crucial element in efforts to combat terrorism was the fact that both the investigation of terrorist acts and their prevention and punishment were prerogatives and non-transferable obligations of the States. The international dimension of such obligations consisted of cooperation with other States to apprehend the perpetrators of such acts and to make every effort to ensure that no terrorist activities against other States were organized or encouraged in their territory.

5. **Egypt** reported that it was one of the very early countries to sound the alarm that a new criminal phenomenon was emerging on the international scene, and has led its well-known campaign against terrorism. It has always been of the view that the subject warranted special attention, particularly as any country or people, regardless

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of political creed or geographical location, is a potential victim of terrorist activities.

6. In pursuing its fight against terrorism and particularly in implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/60 of 9 December 1994, Egypt stated that it has taken concerted actions both internationally and internally.

7. On the international level, Egypt reported that it is a party and signatory to 10 international multilateral conventions pertaining to international terrorism (see sect. III.A), and is an active partner in all current negotiations aimed at introducing new norms for suppressing that abhorrent phenomenon. Egypt stated that both governmental and non-governmental institutions have organized and hosted conferences and meetings to disseminate information and coordinate efforts necessary to combat terrorism, as well as participating in international forums concerned with the subject. Egypt further pointed out that it has helped in shaping international consensus in respect of terrorism, which is reflected in the resolutions and declarations of international conferences and meetings, such as the Vienna Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Cairo in 1995, the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 and the Sharm El-Sheikh Summit, held in Egypt in 1996. Egypt has also contributed through the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in developing a number of regulations to enhance cooperation in combating terrorism.

8. At the regional level, Egypt stated that it has called for, and become the leading force for the conclusion of the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, signed in Cairo on 24 April 1998 (see sect. III.A). This was the culmination of the several meetings it had organized for the Arab Justice and Interior Ministers. It has also hosted the Governmental Expert Group Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Countries, which was held in Cairo in February 1998. The Group was entrusted with drafting a code of conduct on combating terrorism, based on a draft prepared by Egyptian officials.

9. At the national level, Egypt reported that it has undertaken a series of legislative as well as administrative steps aimed at curbing terrorism by introducing prevention schemes on the cultural, social, economic and security levels. In this respect, the Egyptian parliament adopted Law 97, on terrorism, in 1992. By doing this, Egypt is setting an example of vigorous anti-terrorist policy, and encourages other countries to take steps to introduce into their national legal systems specific anti-terrorist legislation. Successive Governments of Egypt have always acted with vigour in suppressing terrorist activities and in prosecuting and punishing their perpetrators.

10. Egypt further reported that, in order to enhance international efforts aimed at combating terrorism at the international level, President Hosni Mubarak, in August 1998, called for the convening of an international summit under the auspices of the United Nations, with a view to leading and directing the international community in dealing with terrorism legally, politically, economically and technologically. That call was endorsed by the Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries in Durban in September 1998. In view of the importance for the international community to take a unified stance against terrorism, Egypt further stated that it believes that the Secretary-General should play an essential role in coordinating international efforts in this regard.

B. Information received from international organizations

11. **The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** provided additional information, including information on the objectives of and offences punishable under the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. IAEA reported that it had been carrying out a number of activities in support of Member States' efforts to prevent and respond to illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources, including guidance, training, technical support, services, information exchange and the illicit trafficking database programme.

12. Under the rubric of guidance, IAEA is reviewing its document on the physical protection of nuclear material[1] for possible further revision. The recommendations contained in the document reflect the requirements that should be met by domestic systems for the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities in member States. IAEA is also preparing a safety guide on the detection of and responses to illicit trafficking in radioactive materials, to be co-sponsored by the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

13. Regarding technical support, activities of IAEA include upgrades of physical protection systems to improve the protection of highly enriched uranium; evaluation of border monitoring systems; and support of a number of newly independent States in their national efforts to establish, develop or review the national laws governing the

safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to adopt implementing legislation for the international instruments to which those States have adhered.

14. IAEA has established the International Physical Protection and Advisory Service, through which member States can obtain advice on enhancing their national and facility-level physical protection systems. IAEA and several member States also established a coordinated technical support programme to provide coordination services and thereby avoid duplication of effort.

15. In the area of information exchange, IAEA recently held two international conferences, and provided fellowships to experts from the newly independent States and eastern Europe to make scientific visits to facilities in other countries. IAEA acts as secretariat for the Inter-Agency Coordinated Committee on Illicit Cross-Border Movement of Nuclear Materials and other Radioactive Sources.

16. IAEA also provided current information of its database programme for illicit trafficking incidents involving nuclear materials and other radioactive sources.

IV. Information on workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism

1. IAEA conducts a number of training courses and workshops in the following areas: (a) physical protection of nuclear material; (b) prevention of nuclear smuggling; and (c) state systems of accounting and control.

Notes

[1] IAEA document INFCIRC/225/Rev.3.